

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office action dated February 25, 2004, setting forth a shortened three month statutory period for reply expiring on May 25, 2004.

Claims 1-21 were pending in the application, with claims 1 and 18 being independent claims. In brief review, the Examiner objected to Fig.1 as lacking the legend of "PRIOR ART"; objected to the specification as including a minor informality; renumbered original claims 20-23 as 18-21; rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite; rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated; and rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious. The Examiner also allowed claim 18, and indicated that claims 3, 4, 6, 16 would be allowable if re-written in independent form, and indicated that claims 12, 17, 19, and 20 would be allowable if amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejections.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21 have been amended, and claim 2-3 have been canceled without prejudice. The specification has been amended to correct the minor informality.

Accordingly, the claims now pending in the application are claims 1 and 4-21, with claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 16, 17, and 18 being independent claims.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner indicated his belief that "Fig. 1 should be designed by a legend such as "Prior Art" and requires a proposed drawing correction. Accordingly, Fig. 1 has been amended to include the legend "PRIOR ART" and it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Response to Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the application as having informalities at page 1, line 5, as needing an update of the information of the co-pending, cross-referenced application.

Accordingly, the specification has been amended at page 1, line 5, to reflect that the co-pending application has issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,590,420 on July 8, 2003. It is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Response to Claim Numbering Objection

The Examiner objected to the original number of claims as missing numbers 18 and 19. The Examiner indicated that the mis-numbered claims 20-23 have now been renumbered as claims 18-21 respectively.

The undersigned acknowledges that the originally filed claims were mis-numbered in that numbers 18 and 19 were missing, and the undersigned sincerely apologizes for any confusion.

Since the Examiner has indicated that the mis-numbered claims 20-23 have been renumbered as 18-21, it is believed that there is no action required in response to this claim objection, and accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this claim rejection be withdrawn. Further, the listing of claims provided herein reflects that mis-numbered claims 20-23 are now renumbered and presented as claims 18-21.

Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 12, 17, and 19-21 as indefinite. As to claim 2, the Examiner indicated that it is not clear when the high voltage signal is clamped to ground. Since claim 2 has been cancelled, this rejection is moot. The language of claim 2 that has been incorporated into amended claims 1, 12, and 17 now recites "a fourth switch for clamping said high voltage signal" to ground, which is not believed to be indefinite.

As to claims 19-21, the Examiner indicated that the preamble of these claims incorrectly referenced a method of claim 1. Claims 19-21 have been amended to depend from independent method claim 18.

As to claims 7, 8, and 13, the Examiner indicates that these claims recite the limitation of “the high voltage supply” but that this phrase does not have proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, claims 7, 8, and 13 have been amended to recite “the high voltage signal” which has proper antecedent basis and is not indefinite.

As to claim 19, the Examiner rejected claim 19 as having insufficient antecedent basis for the phrase “the clamping device” because this claim originally depended from claim 1. Since claim 19 has been amended to depend from independent method claim 18, proper antecedent basis exists for the term “the clamping device.”

As to claims 20-21, the Examiner rejects these claims as having insufficient antecedent basis for the term “the supply line” because these claims originally depended from claim 1. Since claims 20-21 have been amended to depend from independent method claim 18, proper antecedent basis exists for the term “the supply line.”

In view of the corrections of these informalities in these claims, it is respectfully requested that these indefiniteness rejections be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claim 18 is allowable; claims 3, 4, 6, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 12, 17, 19, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 indefiniteness rejections.

Accordingly, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form by the inclusion of the elements of claim 3 (including the elements of claim 2) into independent claim 1, and claims 2-3

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have been canceled without prejudice. Since dependant claims 5, 7-11, and 13-15 depend from and further limit claim 1 which is now allowable, these dependant claims 5, 7-11, and 13-15 are also allowable.

Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form through the addition of the elements of claim 1 into claim 4.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form through the addition of the elements of claim 1 into claim 6.

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form through the addition of the elements of claims 1 and 2 into claim 12, and is believed to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form through the addition of the elements of claim 1 into claim 16.

Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form through the addition of the elements of claims 1 and 2 into claim 17, and is believed to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 19-21 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 18, and therefore dependant claim 19-21 are also allowable.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 15, and 21 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,367,489 to Park et al. (the "Park patent"). The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 14, and 21 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,956,219 to Maloney (the "Maloney patent"). The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 15, and 21 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 4,794,278 to Vajdic (the "Vajdic patent"). The Examiner also rejected claim 13 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of the Park patent.

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In light of the above amendments, these rejections are moot. The Assignee expressly reserves the right to traverse these rejections in a continuation application or other related application.

CONCLUSION

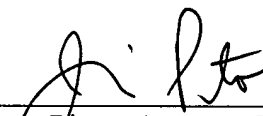
In view of the above, claims 1 and 4-21 remain in the application, with claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 16, 17, and 18 being independent claims. The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such prompt allowance is earnestly requested.

No fees are believed to be due with this Amendment beyond the \$344.00 fee (attached hereto) for the additional (4) four independent claims. However, if any additional fees are required, please consider this a petition therefore and please charge such fees to Deposit Account number 04-1415.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 25, 2004

By


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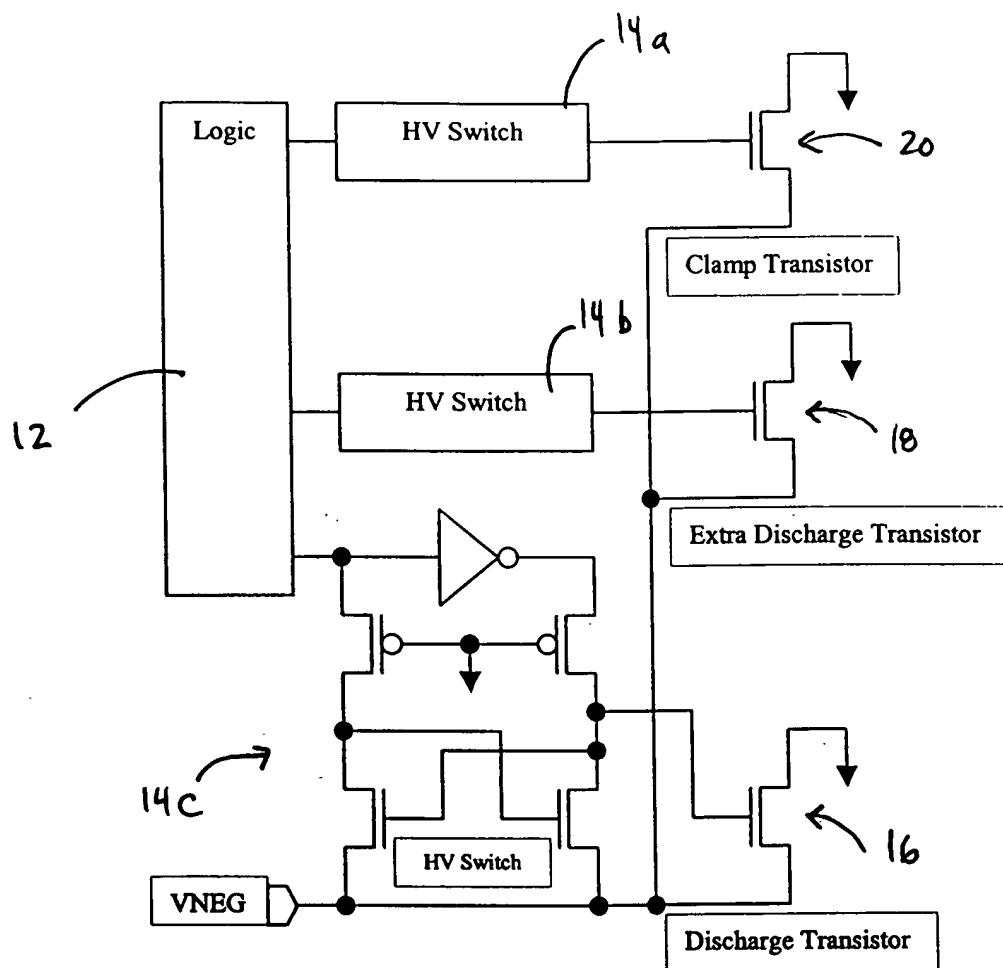
Circuit and Method for Discharging High Voltage Signals

Inventors: Ryan T. HIROSE, et al.

Attorney Docket No.: 11403.00

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

RECEIVED
JUN 2 2004
TECH CENTER 2800



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PRIOR ART

FIG. 1

LEGEND
"PRIOR ART"
ADDED